

Application No. 10/690,195  
Amendment Dated 3/16/06  
Reply to Office Action of 9/16/05

### **REMARKS**

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on September 16, 2005. Claims 1, 2 and 12 have been amended and claims 4, 6, 7 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 19-21 stand withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement raised by Examiner. Claims 1-3, 5, 8-13 and 15-18 remain pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments, as well as the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in complete condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application in this regard.

### **Objection to Drawings**

Applicant has canceled claims 7 and 8 so the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) should be withdrawn.

### **Claim Objections and Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph**

Applicant has canceled claims 4, 6, 7 and 14 so the claim objections of claims 6 and 7 the rejections of claims 4 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph should be withdrawn.

### **Prior Art Rejections**

Applicant's counsel appreciates the courtesy extended by Examiner Hoey during the telephone interview conducted on February 24, 2006. During that interview, independent claims 1 and 12 were discussed in view of the prior art of record and

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Examiner suggested certain amendments to the claims to clearly define over that art. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 12 as discussed with Examiner during the telephone interview and respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

In particular, Examiner appreciated that Applicant's claimed invention is directed to a garment that is configurable, in one embodiment, as a single panel garment wherein first and second halves of the panel are secured together by fasteners provided on the panel. The garment is also configurable as an interconnected multiple panel garment wherein the fasteners of multiple panels are used to secure adjacent panels together to form the multiple panel garment.

During the telephone interview, Examiner agreed that the primary Benjamin reference taken alone, or in combination with the other prior art of record, fails to teach or suggest the combination of elements now recited in amended independent claims 1 and 12. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of independent claims 1 and 12 be withdrawn.

Moreover, as claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 15-18 depend from allowable independent claims 1 and 12, and further as each of these claims recites a combination of elements not taught or suggested by the prior art of record, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable as well.

Application No. 10/690,195  
Amendment Dated 3/16/06  
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**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing response including the amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and early notice to this affect is earnestly solicited. If there is any issue that remains which may be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to resolve the same and expedite the allowance of this application.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 23-3000 in the amount of \$510.00 for the three (3) months extension fee as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(3). If any additional fees are necessary to complete this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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